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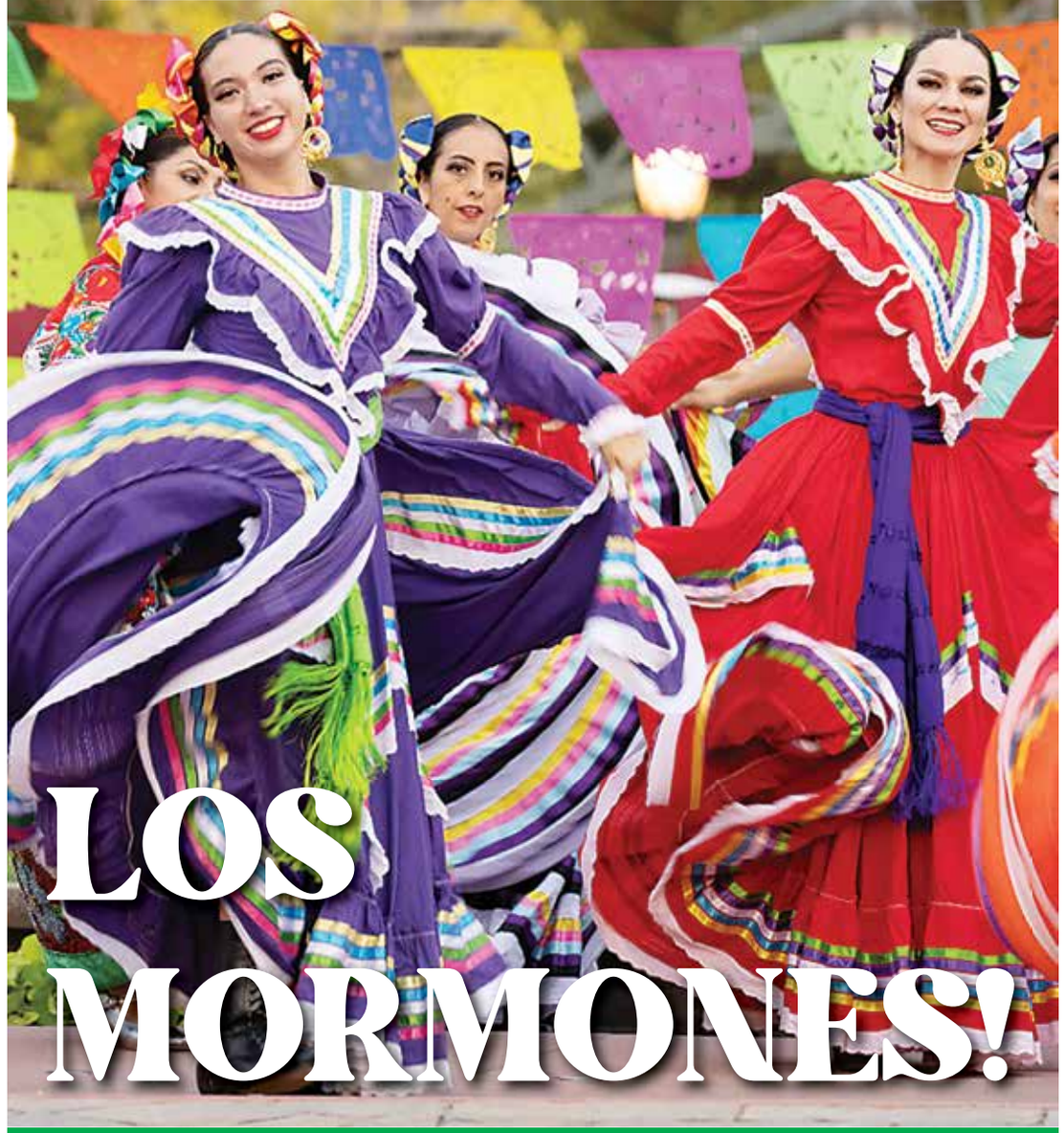
Vol 48 | Issue #5

September - October 2022

The Arizona BEEHIVE Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



LOS MORMONES!

Arizona's Latino Latter-day Saints

Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15

ON THE COVER

Dancers perform in a Luz de Las Naciones event.

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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By Tony Gutiérrez

LOS MORMONES

Arizona's Latino Latter-day Saints

While English is the primary language for Elder Alex Flores, he can't imagine saying his prayers in any language other than Spanish.

"Saying prayers in Spanish, you feel more authentic. Here in the Spanish ward, I have yet to hear a youth say a prayer in English," said Elder Flores, who was set apart Aug. 14 and left for the Missionary Training Center the next day. "I speak English dominantly, but every example I've had of doing prayers, I've only known in Spanish."

Elder Flores grew up in the Aguila Ward, one of two Spanish-speaking wards in the Phoenix South Mountain Stake. For him — like many others who attend Spanish-speaking congregations — his faith and Hispanic cultural identity are intrinsically intertwined.

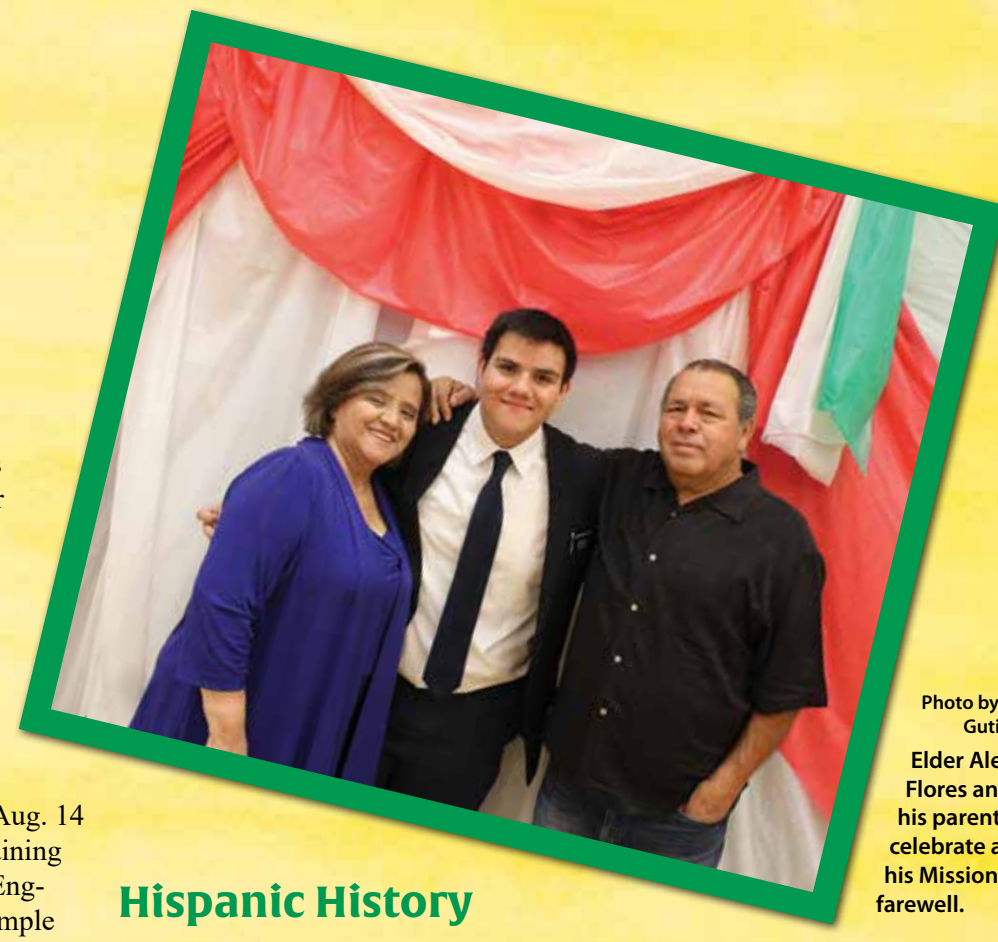

Photo by Tony Gutierrez

Elder Alex Flores and his parents celebrate at his Missionary farewell.

Hispanic History

Nationally, Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized every year from Sept. 15-Oct. 15. The commemoration began in 1968 as "Hispanic Heritage Week," under then U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1988, the week was expanded to a month under President Ronald Reagan. It is used to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/

The significance of the month commemorates the time when multiple Latin American nations declared their independence from Spanish colonial rule, beginning with Mexico's "Grito de Dolores" [Cry

Continued on pg. 4

What's The Buzz?

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

—Matthew 5: 14-16

The highly recommended Come Follow Me app recently posted the following thought:

"Part of our discipleship is to *spread the Spirit* wherever we go. Increasing the spirit wherever we might be, whether that be at church, work, home or somewhere else."

As I read this, it occurred to me that *The Arizona Beehive Magazine* spreads the Spirit, and acts as a light that glorifies our Father in Heaven, and His son, Jesus Christ.

All of our content testifies of the Savior and of those who follow Him. We write about people who are, and are not members of the Church; businesses that are, and are not owned by members. Most of our advertisers are not members, but are those that recognize speaking to members with their ads is a worthwhile endeavor. Local ads tell as much about the local community as do stories and articles!

I think about where copies of the magazine are located, awaiting pick up by members,(and by some non-members!). We place them in locations where members frequent. Most of the time such locations are clean, safe and sheltered. Sometimes, however, they are not. Regardless of where each copy sits, it radiates the Spirit of God with its cover art and content within.

We are intentional about spreading the spirit every place we are placed, displayed and read. In print or on a mobile device.

It is our responsibility as members to make the places on which we stand holy places, especially when we are not standing in actual holy places. It is my responsibility to create each issue of *The Arizona Beehive Magazine* as a vehicle to make more holy the places it stands, waiting to be picked up and read, spreading the Spirit all the while. Who knew a few sheets of paper and ink could accomplish such a worthy goal?

—(Reference from "Sharing Your Light" October 2014 General Conference talk by Neill F. Marriott)

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

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Arizona's Latino Latter-day Saints
Continued from pg. 1

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dancers perform in a Luz de Las Naciones event.

of Dolores] in the early hours of Sept. 16, 1810 — known as the "Dieciséis de Septiembre." This led to the Sept. 15, 1821, independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Locally, Hispanics have been a part of the Church in Arizona since its earliest days. Daniel W. Jones, who led the expedition from Utah into what is now Mesa, had spoken Spanish from his time in the Mexican American War. Once settled, he sought interaction and advice about the environment from the local Native American tribe. It was there that he met Encarnación Valenzuela, who was half Mexican and half Tohono O'odham Native American, and was born in Caborca, Sonora, Mexico.

While Valenzuela didn't speak English, he spoke Spanish and Papago. Through Valenzuela, Jones was able to communicate with the local tribe. Eventually, Valenzuela was baptized in 1884. He earned the nickname "El Papago," and the historic Papago Ward serving the Native American community was named after him.

"When [Jones] gets here, and he starts settling in, he writes about how he wanted to mission to the Native Americans and the Hispanic Mexicans, Latinos, that were here at the time," said Dr. Sujey Vega, an Arizona State University professor whose current research is focusing on the history and experience of Hispanic Latter-day Saint women in Arizona. "Jones and a few others stayed behind in Lehi to continue to try to incorporate a mission to the Native and the Spanish-speaking in the area, or at least work with them. They figured out they could survive if they worked together with these populations rather than against them."

As the Second Mexican Revolution saw a mass exodus from Mexico, and the Spanish-American Mission came to encompass Spanish-speaking members in the Arizona. The first three Spanish-speaking branches in the United States were established around the same time in the late 1910s — one in Mesa, one in Salt Lake City [the historic Lucero Ward] and one in El Paso, Texas. Today, there are 47 Spanish-speaking wards and branches in Arizona.

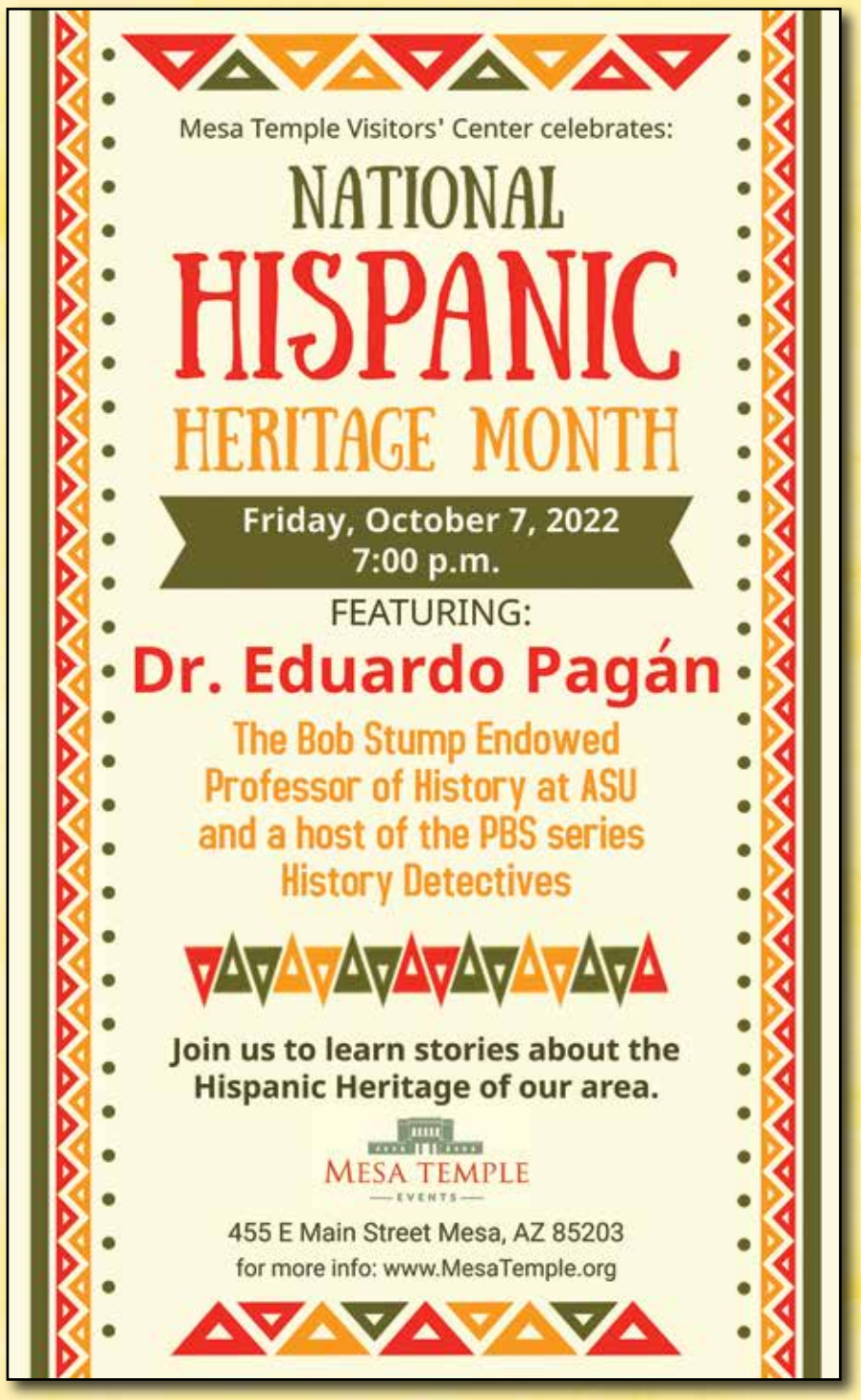
As the Church continued to expand it's Spanish-speaking efforts, both in Latin America and the United States, Church leaders saw the need for Temple ceremonies to be translated into Spanish. "I see no reason why the English language should monopolize the Temple session," President Joseph Fielding Smith exclaimed during a 1943 visit to the Spanish-American Mission. Church translator Eduardo Balderas compiled the ceremony in Spanish, which was conducted for the first time Nov. 6, 1945. Spanish-speakers from throughout the hemisphere made pilgrimages to Mesa, granting the temple the informal moniker of the "Lamanite Temple."

Lamanite Identity

While the Church has, in recent years, pulled back from referring to all of those of indigenous American descent — including Latinos — as "Lamanites," many still strongly identify with the term.

"If you look at history, the Latino people have been blessed and progressed so much over the years all over Latin America," reflected Pablo Félix, a past bishop of the Spanish-speaking Liahona Second

Continued on pg. 6



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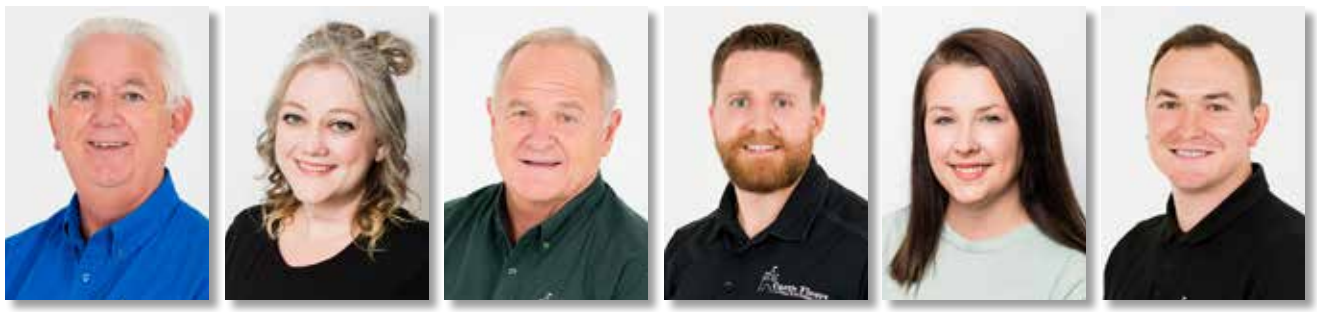

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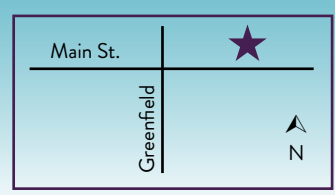

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Photo courtesy of Eduardo Obregón Pagán, Ph.D.
Lamanite conference held in Mesa where the old Spanish American Branch in Mesa held meetings.

Arizona's Latino Latter-day Saints
Continued from pg. 4

Ward. "Before it was just a Spanish colony. Now, we have Latinos in key positions in the United States, very successful Latinos and successful families, and I think that's part of the blessings. God made a promise to the Lamanite people that He wouldn't forget about them.

"In those covenants, I realized who I was — a child of God, that God made a promise to my ancestors," he added. "Now, as a 50-year-old man and father of four, I see the blessings, and I talk to my kids, 'It talks about your ancestors and talks about God's promises to His people — Nephites, and then, in our case, the Lamanites.'"

For many years, Mesa would host what were known as "Lamanite Conferences" for Spanish-speaking members from throughout the U.S. and other countries. Vega noted that some people she's interviewed met their spouses at these conferences, "which is so adorable," or have made lifelong friends.

"They operate for some folks very much as a sense of pride, that they belong to this faith in as much as anybody else," she said. "Any other pioneer that might be from Utah belongs to the faith; so do Latinos and Latin Americans as much as Native Americans, as well."

Elder Flores' mother, Beatriz Flores, grew up in Mexico and after moving to Phoenix, she joined the Church in 1979, followed by her mother and brothers. "The Lamanites are the chosen people, and in the Book of Mormon, it tells us that we're going to grow like flowers throughout, and we're becoming that," she reflected. "That prophecy is becoming true. We are just growing and becoming what God has sent us to do."

Cultural Connections

Part of that heritage is the way celebrations are done within Spanish-speaking wards. The role of food is pivotal to the Latino communal experience, or as Félix says, "Food is an expression of love."

At a farewell party at the Aguila Ward's meetinghouse for Elder Flores held the day before he was set apart as a missionary, his father José cooked a spicy pulled pork with a side of rice, beans and macaroni. Every year, the same ward hosts a "Noche de Patria" [Homeland Night] where members will bring set up a station and serve a dish from their home state or nation.

Other large celebrations have a particular Latino flavor. "My sister had a quinceañera when I first joined the Church, and we had it in our stake center," recalled Felix, who's family joined the Church at the Montaña del Sur Ward in 1988. "All the members of the ward were there. You'll see Spanish wards, the family in the ward will have a quinceañera, either at the cultural hall or somewhere else, on Friday or Saturday, and Sunday come back to church."

La Familia

The Church's emphasis on the family provides a natural cultural

Continued on pg. 8

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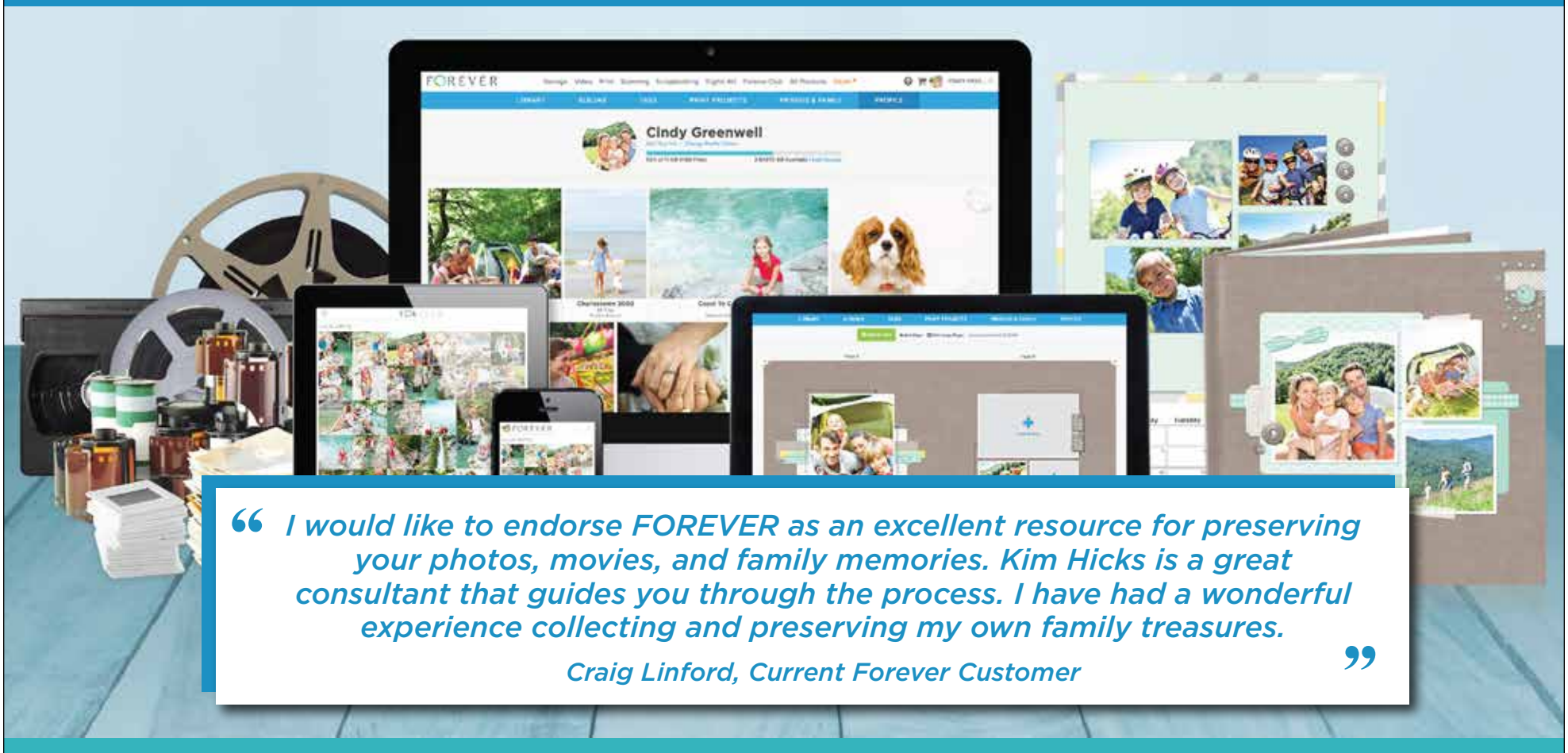

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Photo by Claire Roney /Cronkite News

Members of a Mesa ward perform a Latin American dance on 2016.

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dancers perform in a Luz de Las Naciones event.

Arizona's Latino Latter-day Saints

Continued from pg. 6

fit for Latinos, says Bishop Olivas. "The focus on the family within the Church makes it really easy for the Latino culture to inoculate itself with it," he said. "Latinos are big on family. The family being that central role within the Church, I think it's really easy for Latinos to connect with that aspect of the Church culture."

Families may also conduct themselves differently during Sacrament Meetings based on language and culture, reflected Elder Flores. It's not uncommon, for example, for there to be a lot of crying babies or rambunctious children in a Spanish-speaking ward instead of being relegated to a side room. "I'm used to having children running around, children crying. I'm trying to contain my laughter because I was that kid before," he said. "I find it endearing because people bring their children and they're like, "You're children. I just want you here. I just want you to be a part of this."

The Church's teaching on eternal families also ties in to the Hispanic custom of honoring ancestors during the "Día de los Muertos," or "Day of the Dead," which falls on Nov. 1-2. While films such as "Coco" and "The Book of Life" have brought the traditionally Latino holiday to the mainstream, the holiday strikes a particular chord with LDS Latinos.

"It makes perfect sense in the sense," reflected Felix. "The doctrine of salvation for the dead is very key for us. It's one of the key tenants, we have a teaching that we can't be saved without our dead and that our dead can't be saved without us. … From a Mexican perspective, the indigenous had that thought about the process of the dead that we recognize them, and as long as you're remembered, you're alive."

The emphasis on "family first" and "strengthening families" certainly resonates with Latinos, Felix added. "Family is so, so important. It's such a key piece of our culture that when we hear that as an investigator, it resonates," he said. "That's what Latinos see in the Church, and they embrace it the best way they can, and they make it their own experience based on their culture and the Church embraces it, too."

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Reyna I. Aburto, Second Counselor in the General Relief Society Presidency and a native of Nicaragua, speaks at April 2021 General Conference.

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Latter-day Saint youth of Latino heritage pose for a picture in 1976, before performing the annual "Fiesta de las Piñatas.

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By Barbie Van Cott

A New Mesa MISSION PRESIDENT

David and Barbara Stapleton were recently called to the Mesa Mission, succeeding President Chase B. Andrews and Sister Kelly S. Andrews.

David is a towering six feet, seven inches tall. When he attended Brigham Young University, he was a pole vaulter. He achieved the highest score. He still holds the top record as the highest jumper. It runs in his family, as his daughter has achieved the same status in the woman's pole vaulting division. She is highest jumper. "It's a daddy daughter bond." He said.

Brother Stapleton has served as a ward Young Men adviser and former Area Seventy, mission presidency counselor, stake president, high councilor, bishop, elders quorum presidency counselor, ward Young Men president, Scoutmaster, ward missionary and missionary in the New York New York City Mission.

Sister Stapleton has served as a stake Relief Society presidency counselor and former stake Young Women presidency counselor, ward Relief Society president, ward Relief Society presidency counselor, ward Young Women presidency counselor, ward temple and family history consultant, and ward missionary.

David and Barbara Stapleton come from the state of Washington, in Kennewick. They raised their six children there, and now have fourteen grandchildren. They love gardening and raising children.

President Stapleton's focus is on those he serves, and not on himself. He has had many church callings working with missionaries. And he is excited to be working with his sweet wife this time in this new assignment, serving the Lord together.

There are approximately 190 Elders, Sisters, and couple missionaries currently serving in the Mesa Arizona Mission. The mission area takes in twenty-one stakes in Mesa and the San Carlos Indian Reservation.

The missionaries say, "When President Stapleton speaks, the microphone is raised, as they listen to his wise council."

There is a lot of member support for missionary work in this area, so missionaries keep busy.

When asked about his goal for the missionaries, President Stapleton responds, "To create eternal disciples of Jesus Christ out of our missionaries. I want to help them accomplish their missionary purpose."

What a beautiful goal.

He then adds, "I look forward to getting to know new friends and new converts."

Photo courtesy of Debra Jensen

Zone Conference held on July 28, 2022 at the Mesa AZ. Lehi Stake Center.

Photo by the Church Missionary Department

President and Sister Stapleton.

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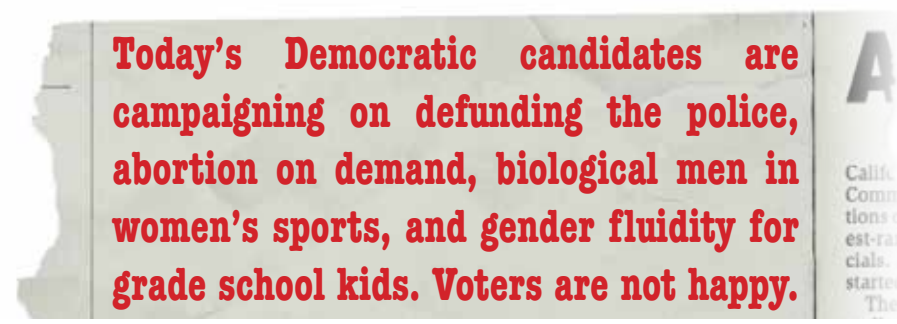
Today's Democratic candidates are campaigning on defunding the police, abortion on demand, biological men in women's sports, and gender fluidity for grade school kids. Voters are not happy.

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Mightier than the Sword

American Night Writers Association Annual Writers Conference

By Emily Jex Boyle

Early on in her writing career, Marsha Ward looked for writing clubs. She attended various groups where often the pieces people would read "would make the hairs stand up on the back of my neck," she recalled. "I felt so uncomfortable. These were not safe places for me to be as a writer." Marsha prayed to find a safe place where she could learn and received an impression that God wanted her to do something about this dilemma. She reached out to fellow writers who shared her Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints faith, and scheduled a meeting place. Remembering that October 1986 day, "There were six of us. Most of us were strangers, but when we came out of there two or three hours later, we were sisters."

Photo by: Heather Zahn Gardner

American Night Writers Association founder, Marsha Adams.

In its earliest years, she wondered if the dream of the resulting American Night Writers Association (ANWA) would die. Anyone who joined was expected to help. As technology increased, so did the ability to reach out. Forty years since the first meeting, Marsha recalls, "We persevered. People started hearing about us and found a place that was safe, a place to grow and learn. I continue to be amazed at the growth and how many people have joined through the years. I hope I have done my part and that the Lord is pleased with my efforts."

As a unique, professional organization made up members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, ANWA helps writers of all genres and levels. The association connects each writer to a critique group with a purpose to "encourage, assist, educate, and motivate members to write, and, if they desire, to publish their works." Marsha's eyes light up when she remembers the first ANWA members who published their works. Early on, members of ANWA met regularly to support each other and to give feedback on their writings. Soon, workshops came on the scene, then retreats, followed by annual conferences, which have become a popular teaching tool.

The 2022 annual ANWA conference will be held September 15-17 at the Mesa Doubletree Hotel. Open to the public, the theme is "Legion of Storytellers: the pen is mightier than the sword." The keynote speaker is successful, published author Charlie Holmberg. The conference also includes breakout sessions, competitions, writing helps, an evening gala, and more. The event has something to offer every type of writer of all skill levels. Agents and publishers will be on site.

ANWA
Conference
September 15-17, 2022 Mesa Doubletree, AZ
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• Workshops – workshops on Thursday night to help with everything from your first chapter to your query letter
• Faculty – nationally recognized presenters (including NY Times best-selling authors, agents, editors, and publishers)
• Pitch Sessions – Pitch your manuscript to national editors and agents
• Contests – Enter the first 500 words of your manuscript in our B.O.B contest for prizes & professional feedback
• Protagonist Gala – Come dressed as your favorite protagonist to mingle, network, and have fun with faculty and other attendees
• Bookstore – Sell your books and/or purchase others' at our on-site bookstore
Come develop your writing skills, your marketing knowledge, your networking base, and your creativity!
Registration opens May 21, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m.
*additional fees for master classes, Thursday workshops, and pitches
American Night Writers Association
$199

2022 ANWA conference flyer.

Photo by Jill Warner

Communications Director, Jill Warner, says, "The conference is a great place to network with industry professionals and fellow writers. It's been a lot of fun seeing behind the scenes. The leaders care about the members, providing opportunities for them." New to the conference this year will be a screenplay class as well as a class on non-fiction writing.

"Writing can be emotionally draining," Jill explains, "It's nice to have friends who know how it feels." For more information, visit www.americannightwriters.org

American Night Writers Association (ANWA) attendees enjoy a writing class.

Photo by Jill Warner

A New Name and a New Direction
Linford and Saints

Jeffery and Jason, The Linford Twins.

Photo courtesy of Linford Music

By Katherine Ogden

Jason and Jeffery Linford grew up in the East Valley. The identical twins started taking music lessons and performing at the age of eight, although they remember actually starting their first music collaborations at the age of two, when they would harmonize for their mother's friends.

After attending Mesa High School, both brothers served missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, with Jeffrey going to Romania and Jason to Korea. They returned and graduated from BYU in 2008.

In January 2014, a video practically went viral on YouTube when they both proposed to their unsuspecting girlfriends as they invited them onstage, during a performance at a Young Single Adult regional conference. They later held a double wedding ceremony that following April.

They first began to gain notice as the "Twin Fiddlers".You may have seen them when they auditioned on America's Got Talent, or later in 2017 when they tried out for The Gong show, as The Hollywood Bug Guys, or at the Rockin' R Ranch, where they often appeared, until it closed in 2018. Like many of us, they've taken a step back the last couple years to reflect, but they've remained quite busy.

Besides running their pest control business and spending time with their families, they've been very active: writing a lot of their own new music, making a video, finding a new manager, setting up a new practice studio and getting ready to release a new album, They've also recently returned from an August trip to Korea to perform as well as do humanitarian work.

They met their new manager almost by accident. Mike Herrera, previously well known as a boxer and now a promoter, met them when Jason had a mobile home he wanted to sell. Herrera ended up hearing some of their music and asked, "Do you have this recorded? Where can I buy this song"?! When they told him not yet, Herrera said, "Why not? This needs to be out there! People need to hear this!" And so their business relationship began. "We just needed a fighter, to help us push in the right direction," says Jeffrey.

"With our dad working as a manager for Deseret Book, we would have some fairly famous artists come over to our home. It was always our dream to have a CD of our own on the shelves of the bookstore," says Jeffrey, "We're getting closer to that dream. We have a lot of new music, with songs such as *Choose Me Today* and *Innocence*, coming out."

Their new name, Linford and Saints, reflects the collaborations they have in the works, with fellow artists. Their studio, The Practice Pad, is also being refurbished, along with its new name, The Pad on Main (reflecting its Main Street, Mesa location), and should be finished shortly, with a reopening coming in September or October. Their first album is set to be released right around that same time.

You can find more information on their new website, LindfordTwins.com, along with some complimentary free listening to some of their music.

Photo courtesy of Craig Linford

Jason and Jeffery Linford giving their nephew Andersen some pointers.

Jason and Jeffery Linford.

Photo courtesy of Craig Linford

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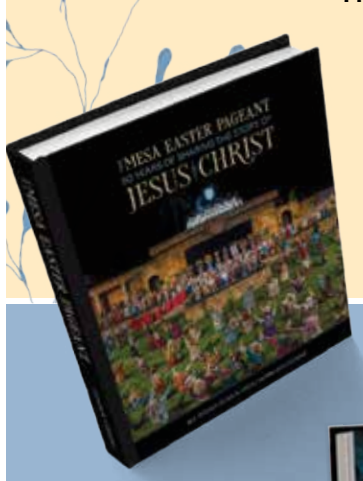

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"For twenty-eight years, Marcie Hutchinson was a MPS master teacher who taught innovative curriculum, engaged kids, listened to parents, trained principals, and worked with amazing staffs to create learning environments where kids would thrive. I respected, valued and sought Marcie's perspective on issues facing Mesa Public Schools in the past. She is an experienced, innovative, and effective governing board member. Marcie Hutchinson has my vote!"

— Dr. Jim Zaharis
Former Superintendent Mesa Public Schools

"Marcie Hutchinson is exactly who we need on the Mesa Public School's Governing Board as we navigate the future for teachers and public education. Because Marcie spent thirty-one years in the classroom and the past four years on the governing board, we trust that she will make innovative decisions with the best interests of students and teachers at heart. As parents and grandparents of students in Mesa schools, we respect Marcie's experience in education, her caring attitude, and her commitment to strengthening our community. Marcie knows that successful neighborhood schools, where children thrive, are the backbone of a strong community. We are grateful that Marcie Hutchinson is willing to continue serving on the Governing Board and ask you to join us in supporting her."

— John and Dawn Giles
Mayor of Mesa and Mesa's Woman of the Year

"I so admire Marcie. She deeply cares about what happens in Mesa Public Schools, and works hard for students and staff. We don't always agree on everything, but she always adds thoughtful contributions and helps our board be better."

— Jenny Richardson
Mesa Public Schools Governing Board President (current)

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I Volunteer, I Donate, I Serve With My Community A New Leaf

Volunteer

Lisa Bailey

Photo by A New Leaf
Lisa working in the A New Leaf warehouse, preparing donations for those she serves.

By A New Leaf

Lisa has been volunteering with A New Leaf for years. She has cooked meals for men experiencing homelessness, written letters of encouragement to survivors of domestic violence, and worked with her ward through JustServe to help thousands of people in crisis.

"My father was an alcoholic when I was growing up, and so there was a lot of abuse in the house. When I see the children that come through A New Leaf's programs, I see myself in their little faces and I just need to help. So I volunteer, I donate, and I serve with my community."

Lisa believes strongly that those who are able to help in their community have a responsibility to reach out and serve others. She feels especially strong about giving children support as they navigate homelessness, domestic violence, and other hardships.

"As a kid, I really wish someone would have been there to help me and my family. So I try to be there for these kids as they deal with all sorts of challenges, whatever it may be, so they don't feel alone. You never know how one meal or one conversation might change the entire trajectory of someone's life."

Lisa's dedication is not only personal, her faith has guided her to work in the community and help those in need. She is a leader within her church, helping others to find opportunities to donate meals, make a financial contribution, volunteer, and more.

"We are here to love our brothers and sisters, and to be God's hands. We are here to uplift, support, and share what we have to better the lives of those in need. We are here to be a blessing for others, as best we can."

As one of A New Leaf's most devoted volunteers, Lisa continues to make a remarkable impact in her local community. She has inspired dozens of new donors and volunteers to get involved and help at A New Leaf's homeless shelters and community centers.

a new leaf

The World Needs More People Like You

You give of your time, you give of your talent, and you give your resources to help those in need. You're amazing! So, when it comes to helping your community, if there was a way to be more helpful, wouldn't you want to know?

You can make a transformational impact by giving non-cash gifts to charity like A New Leaf!

Barbara

A supporter for over 25 years, Barbara and her husband were contemplating a major gift in honor of their favorite charity's anniversary. After talking with their advisor, they decided to give stock that had been gifted to Barbara when she was younger.

Together, they determined the best time and amount to give. The transfer was made and in a few days the charity received the proceeds from the sale of the stock. Rather than reducing their cash accounts significantly, Barbara and her husband gave from their appreciated assets and avoided paying capital gains on the stock's appreciation.

Deanne

Deanne cares deeply about helping families facing homelessness, and sent check of support every December for years. Her CPA suggested she start giving from her IRA instead of writing checks. This enabled Deanne to increase her giving, avoid being taxed on the distribution income, and even keep more income for herself.

While updating her estate plan, Deanne also chose to name this organization as a charitable beneficiary of a percentage of her IRA. Retirement funds are heavily taxed when left to heirs, so she chose to leave other assets to her loved ones.

If you have questions regarding these strategies, or others and how they can benefit your favorite charity, please contact Brad Harris at 602.320.1185 or bharris@turnanewleaf.org.

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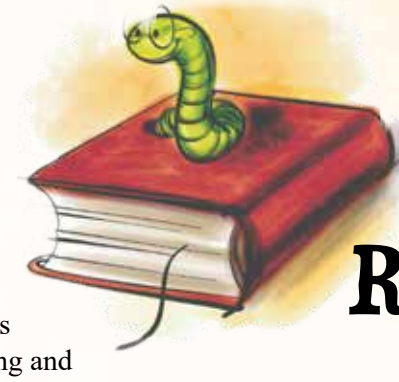
Mesa Mother of Eight Releases Two Picture Books

By Cindy R. Williams



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

Mesa author, Valerie Ipson knows a bit about children and grandchildren. As a mother of eight, and a grandmother, too, she has written two charming, humorous and helpful children's books about how kids see their world.

Photo courtesy of Landi Johnson
Author Valerie Ipson

After Bedtime, and *Sweet Dreams, Princess* are great books to read to children at bedtime, or anytime. Both books are illustrated by artist Kevin Mura.

After Bedtime is an amusing story about a sister and brother imagining fun things they are missing because their parents make them go to bed at "8:00 sharp." "Why do we have to go to bed and Mom and Dad get to stay up?" Ipson writes.

A fun line from the book is, "…And eat all the mint chocolate chip ice cream, plus the brownies we had for dessert. There won't be a single one left for our after-school snack tomorrow."

Sweet Dreams, Princess is a sweet story about a little girl having a difficult time falling to sleep. Her mother helps her navigate this universal issue. I found this book both charming and instructive even to me as a seasoned grown-up.

Ipson writes, "How can Marcy go to sleep when there is nothing to dream about? Don't worry, Mom has some ideas. (If only Marcy will listen to them.) *Sweet Dreams, Princess* is the perfect snuggle-up bedtime book. It's sure to send your wee ones off to Dreamland with a smile!"

Cover of *After Bedtime*

I have both of these books and enjoyed the smiles on the faces of my own grandchildren. In fact, it was fun to ask them what they thought their parents did after they went to bed. One answer they all agreed on was that they "eat all the yummy stuff and jump on the trampoline."

Cover of Sweet Dreams, Princess

Ipson has a saying: "Relax into a good book." She has written good books across several genres to relax into. She writes what she wants and has written Young Adult Fiction, Holiday Romance, and now, Children's Picture Books.

"I hope I can give readers the same experience I have enjoyed through the years while curled up with a good book!"

Ipson's books are available on Amazon.

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

By Allison Beckert

Mission Preparation, Valuable People

Mission preparation can feel like checking off many tasks from a prescribed to-do list, one that doesn't give a lot of insight into what serving a mission is like. There are people all around you that have valuable experience to share, provided you take the time to earnestly ask.

YOUR BISHOP: You'll of course be in contact with your bishop during the process of mission preparation. He is an essential part of the formal process and, depending on his history, can give insight into where to focus your efforts to make the mission as productive and enriching as possible. If you have concerns, bring them up during your Bishop meetings. It can be far more damaging to serve with something swept under the rug, than giving in to pride or urgency to get out and serve with something unshared. Work with your bishop. He isn't the enemy, but is loving representative of Christ!

Photo by Church Media Library

Ward efforts to serve the community can help you as a preparing missionary understand better the lives of others different from your own.

YOUR WARD'S MISSIONARY EFFORT: Your home ward is continuously engaged in missionary work. If you're slated to work as a proselytizing missionary, you can't make an early trip to your area before serving, but you can learn about how a mission works by getting involved in the efforts close to home. Likewise for prospective service missionaries. Connecting with your ward missionaries or stake missionary efforts will give you a glimpse into how things work where there's need for tolerance, service, and concern. Most people put the happy and clean at the front to be seen. Christ worked with those who were in need, outcasts, and the socially low. Before reporting, connect with those in your ward and stake who are already doing this work and tap into their experience.

FULL TIME, PART TIME, SERVICE MISSIONARIES: Elders and Sisters called and serving in your area are another immensely valuable resource. Working with missionaries in your area is often part of mission preparation courses, or part of some wards' existing programs. While accompanying missionaries to lessons and visits, observe and ask questions, such as: What do people in your area struggle with? How do the missionaries serve the community outside of lessons? What did they wish they knew before getting to their mission area?

Service missionaries also have much to offer. Serving in specialized areas gives unique chances to share talents and provides surprising learning opportunities. If your mission is a local service mission, you can get to know the programs before starting.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES: Few people are more eager to share about missions than those who have served in the past. If you do visit with returned missionaries, full time, senior, or service missionaries, you'll find the most recent information from those who have returned in the last 3 to 6 months. They'll happily share their memories with the pleasant shine of completion.

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The Gospel In A Word

ANOINT

Photo by: Getty Images

By Emily Jex Boyle

In a recent video on Book of Mormon Central's "Come Follow Me Insights with Tyler Griffin and Taylor Halvorsen," Griffin mentioned that of all the words in the Old Testament, he believed the word *anoint* to be paramount.

According to Merriam-Websters Dictionary, the term *anoint* means to rub or smear with oil, typically as part of a religious ceremony. In Hebrew, anoint is the word *mashach.* In Greek, anoint is *chriò*. In Hebrew, the term Messiah, comes from this mashach and in Greek, Christos comes from chriò. Both translate to "The Anointed One." Evidently the physical action of rubbing or smearing with oil holds a symbolic place in the title Christ and promised Messiah. Anointing also ties to the hymn we regularly sing of Jesus as our "prophet, priest and king," as all of these receive such rites.

In 1994, Donald W. Parry wrote, "Similar to all rituals and ceremonies, the anointing of the objects and persons held symbolic religious significance. Although the symbols attached to the anointing rite are numerous, they may be categorized into four groups."

Parry explains that first, anointings occur when a person or object is sanctified for divine service. Second, anointings are received as a "gesture of approach," allowing the anointed to approach a sacred space. Third, olive oil signifies the Holy Ghost. Many scriptures connect the two. And fourth, an anointing is Christ centered. Therefore, a person receiving an anointing becomes a shadow or type of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One.

According to the Bible Dictionary, anointings are also a sign of routine grooming or hospitality. Anciently, those injured or sick were anointed with wine, oil or ointment as part of medical treatment. Among the various symbols in the act of anointing is also one of acceptance, of coming together. When a king was anointed anciently, the people had the choice to accept or reject him. Today, in holy temples, God invites all to enter. Such a gift is no longer limited to a fortunate few. All of God's children are invited to enter into a kingdom of priests and priestesses. All willing and worthy to make the covenantal connection are granted the promise that they can also be anointed.

(For more information, see *"Parry, Donald W.. "Ritual Anointing with Olive Oil in Ancient Israelite Religion."* Parry is a professor of Hebrew Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls at Brigham Young University.)

Practical Courses, Spiritual Benefits

Life Help Arizona

By Hillary Jade Fevrier

Books of scripture are saturated with doctrine regarding the importance of earth life, sometimes called our "mortal probation." Missionaries all over the globe teach a simplified version of the plan of salvation, highlighting that we are currently living in a period of trial. Even primary songs teach that we came to earth to "seek for God's light to direct [us]" while we live on Earth. All of these examples reiterate what most adults know all too well: life is hard.

To help with the difficulties of mortality, the Church offers numerous. Recently, a Church program titled Better Life Dallas began offering all its resources to the general public. The success was immense. To build upon this accomplishment, General Authority Seventy Elder Paul B. Peiper wasted no time implementing the program in other locations, with the goal of offering it to the entire southwest region of the United States.

The Arizona Tempe Mission was tasked with creating a website. Elder Hansen, one of the two missionaries assigned to create the website, says, "it was a daunting task. I never expected how much God would help us. We worked 10 hours a day, 6 days a week, for 3 months straight trying to learn and develop something that was completely foreign to us and we're still working tirelessly to improve and update it. We ran into so many problems, yet through perseverance and faith, they were all solved. That's the focus of Life Help: faith can do seemingly impossible things in our lives."

Four Arizona stakes (Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert, and Casa Grande) were given the assignment to run the classes. A call center, lovingly referred to as "The Hub," was staffed by service missionaries who made sure that students got to the appropriate classes. After lots of work, prayer and faith, Life Help Arizona was born.

There are five main categories for the courses offered by Life Help Arizona: English Class, Self Sufficiency, Mental Health, Family History, and Addiction Recovery. Anyone can visit the website, lifehelparizona.org, and sign up for classes. "In fact," says Elder Hansen, "we encourage it!" After signing up, someone from the hub contacts the participant, confirms their details and completes the enrollment. Once the enrollment is complete, the teacher contacts the participant, gets to know them, and relays any important information. Classes are ninety minutes long and meet weekly for six-week periods. In the class, everyone works together to reach their goals and grow their faith.

Despite the challenges that we all face in life, it is beautiful to know that our Father has not left us alone. He has blessed us with many tender mercies, including the community offered to everyone through Life Help Arizona.

Visit lifehelparizona.org to enroll in classes. Or share this website with someone else who needs assistance in one or more of the five areas covered by Life Help Arizona.

Photo courtesy of Life Help Arizona

Life Help Arizona offers life improving courses to anyone in need.

Photo courtesy of Life Help Arizona

Missionaries tasked with creating Life Help Arizona are ready and eager to serve.

Photo courtesy of Life Help Arizona

Towards the end of His life, Jesus said "love one another; as I have loved you". He gave a simple commandment that all who have felt the love of Christ were to show that love to others.

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Like Dragons Did They

FIGHT

Mastering Self-Mastery, Part 2

By Tony Gutiérrez

Men and women who have struggled with sexual self-mastery have found support through Life Changing Services, a network of licensed therapists and mentors founded by Maurice Harker. The small groups geared for individuals based on their state in life are taught a combination of scientific methods and LDS principles.

After presenting a recent fireside at the Pioneer Ward in Gilbert, Harker sat down with *The Arizona Beehive Magazine* to share some of his experiences. The interview has been edited for length and clarity, and is the second part of a two-part series (Part one published in the July/August 2022 issue of *The Arizona Beehive Magazine*).

Author and Speaker Maurice Harker.

Tell me about your own personal testimony of how this became important for you?

My relationship skills, my self-mastery skills, my frustration with not being able to live up to my own value system, and I wasn't willing to just go with the normal mindset of, "Well, that's too bad."

I just started studying conference talks and textbooks and science until I could start to find the blend between them. I was doing mostly personal work. As I started writing and discussing it, other people are going, "That's what it feels like in my head."

Like Dragons Did They Fight
A Synergy of Eternal Principles and Accurate for Personal Self-Mastery
Like Dragons Did They Fight
Maurice W. Harker, CMHC
With Lucas J. Reynolds

Like Dragons Did They Fight by Maurice Harker.

A lot of the principles are taken from LDS Scriptures — but would somebody who is not a member of the Church find value in these programs?

If I was walking down the street and there was a sign outside of a Hindu, Muslim, Catholic or Baptist building, and it said, "We can help with self-mastery," and if I started seeing these are the most amazing principles, ever, it'd be really weird for me to say, "These are very powerful principles, but I

Continued on pg. 29

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* scheduled in September and October, 2022, comprising Isaiah through Ezekiel.

Pitfalls vs. Peace

By Robin Finlinson

The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah warned that those who oppose God and His prophets would metaphorically dig pits and attempt to lead people off life's correct path, ensnaring them in shame and confusion (Isaiah 30:8-13; 41:11; Jeremiah 18:22).

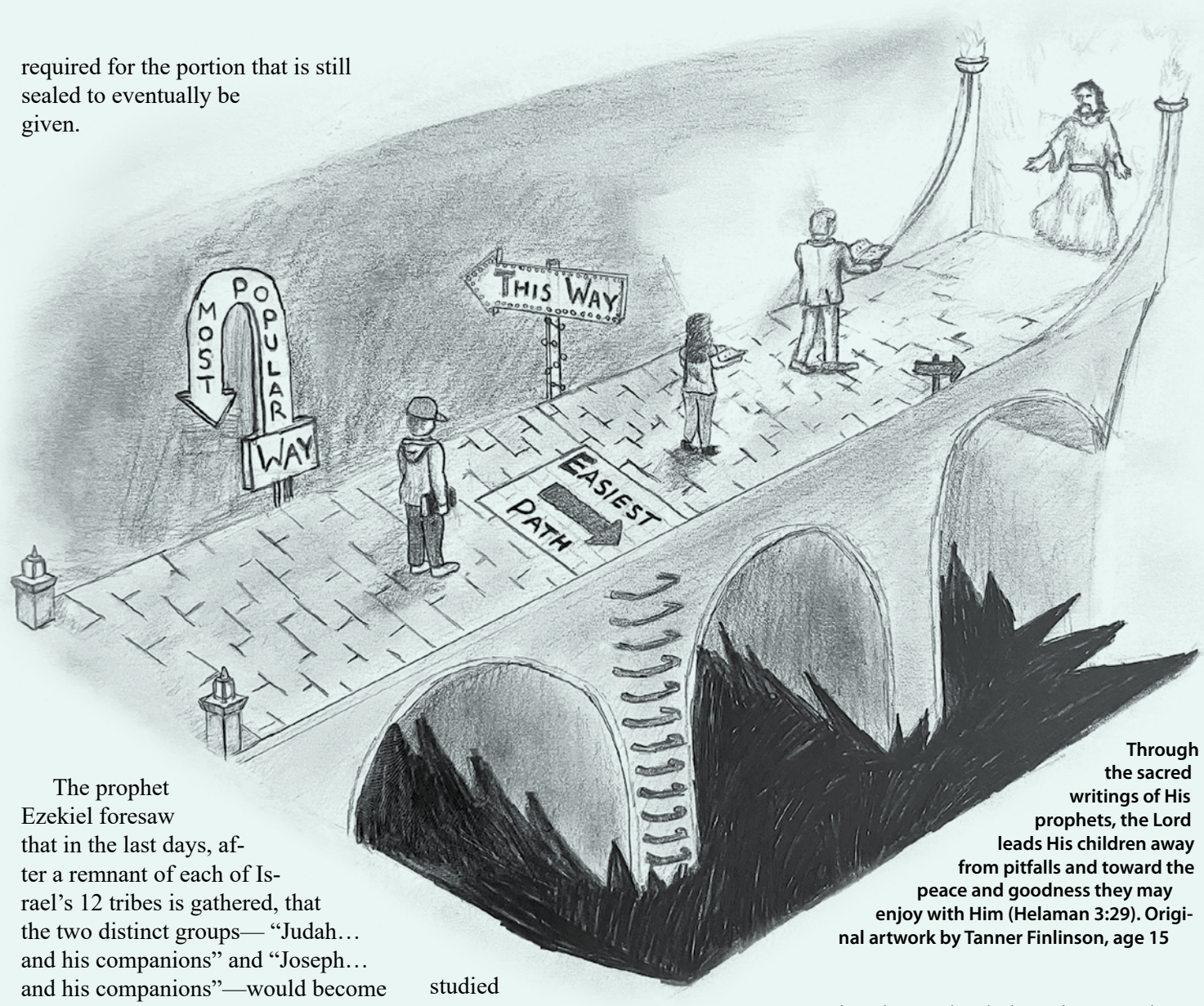
So, rather than following those who mock God who will be brought down into the pits they dig, isn't it more logical to follow the Lord's humble elect who revere God and have accepted the weighty work of leading people along the narrow bridges to the glorious, peaceful shelter of God (Isa. 65:9; Colossians 3:4-17)?

Jesus Christ knows precisely every formidable section of the path. He walked it, carrying each of our burdens across the finish line. Through His special servants, He has given us guidebooks in the form of holy scriptures with His own supportive advice.

Ancient prophets even foretold of another guidebook that the Lord would offer through a prophet in the bewildering last days.

Isaiah foresaw a sealed book delivered to an unlearned man. "And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness" (Isa. 29:11-12, 18).

Much of Isaiah 29 regarding that book is missing from the Bible. But a chapter titled "2nd Nephi 27" in the very book of which Isaiah spoke, now known as the Book of Mormon, reveals a lot more of what Isaiah had said. He spoke clearly of the book's grand significance and the revelations in it being preserved by the power of God. Ether 4:7 explains what is required for the portion that is still sealed to eventually be given.



Through the sacred writings of His prophets, the Lord leads His children away from pitfalls and toward the peace and goodness they may enjoy with Him (Helaman 3:29). Original artwork by Tanner Finlinson, age 15

The prophet Ezekiel foresaw that in the last days, after a remnant of each of Israel's 12 tribes is gathered, that the two distinct groups— "Judah… and his companions" and "Joseph… and his companions"—would become one people again, with the Lord reigning personally among them. Ezekiel also saw that before the two groups united, their sacred records would be united. The "stick" (referring to a commonly-used wooden writing tablet) of Judah and the stick of Joseph "shall become one in thine hand." (Ezekiel 37:16-22).

The light of truth emanating from the pages of the Bible (the stick of Judah) and the Book of Mormon (the stick of Joseph) when the two texts are studied together is remarkably magnified. The effect is like having a high lumen flashlight—an invaluable tool as spiritual and, therefore, societal darkness intensifies.

That is the Lord's go-to method of getting His word out is for us to tell more people what we know about its availability. People who love Him love, uplift and shepherd others. Suggesting that friends who don't have this "flashlight" may download it for free onto their cell phones, and encouraging those who do have it to turn it on daily, are ways we can feed His sheep with His guiding wisdom (Jer. 3:15; John 21:16).

Jeremiah said the Lord would first send "fishers" to gather His children to Him, then "hunters." A less passive and more intentional approach—with targeted loving care—in gathering wandering souls on the journey toward Him (Jer. 16:16) is the approach of those who love Him.

This year, two public education champions are running for the legislature

Jennifer PAWLIK.com
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Cindy Hans
Arizona Senate

Cindy Hans has lived in Arizona for nearly three decades and worked as a teacher, middle school principal, and as a poll worker for local elections. Cindy says strong schools drive our economic growth. As State Senator, she will work to increase public school funding and attract and retain great teachers to ensure a vibrant workforce for Arizona business by investing in post-high school education.

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Authorized by Jennifer Pawlik for AZ House and Cindy for AZ.

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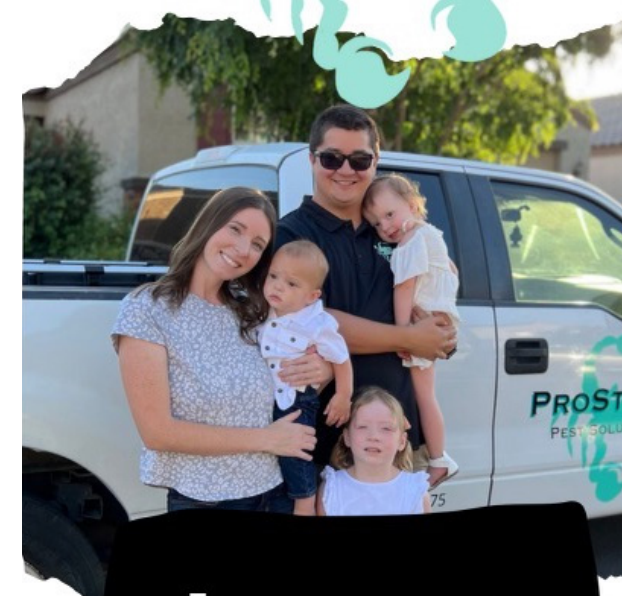

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What's Cooking?

By Rachael Fuller

Get Ready for Pie Season!

School has begun, leaves have started to change, and the temperature is dropping into the 90's. Fall is here! With fall comes a new baking season and time to start prepping for my favorite desserts. I am a sucker for cherries. As soon as I see them in the summer I start collecting and eating—no cherry is beneath my notice. I found cherries in Arizona, in Utah, in Wyoming, in Montana and in California. I even had my sister-in-law bring me Rainier cherries from Washington!

I ate them by the bagful. Soon however, I had to do something besides just eating the cherries, so I started to experiment. I made pies, I made turnovers, I made pop-tarts. Out of all the experimenting I made this delicious filling, which I will definitely make again. My husband, who doesn't even like cherry pie, declared this filling his favorite—he liked it even better than his old favorite, his mom's crumbly top apple pie. Again, this is a very versatile filling: use it in pies, in danishes, as an ice cream topping, or just eat it by the spoonful if you like. Enjoy!

Cherry love and delicious cherry turnovers.

Photos by Rachael Fuller

CHERRY FILLING

Recipe courtesy of Thomas Keller – *Ad Hoc at Home*

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbs corn starch
- 2 tbs water
- 7 cups sweet cherries, pitted (fresh is best but frozen can be used)
- ¾ – 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbs vanilla extract
- Cinnamon to taste
- Almond extract to taste

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Combine cornstarch and water in bowl to form a slurry.

STEP 2: Take 2 cups of cherries and place in blender and puree.

STEP 3: Combine puree and sugar (¾ cup sugar if cherries are sweet, 1 cup sugar if more tart) in medium sauce pan.

STEP 4: Bring to a simmer over medium heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

STEP 5: Stir often to prevent burning.

STEP 6: Reduce heat to medium-low and. while stirring. add slurry.

STEP 7: Bring to a boil and cook until mixture becomes translucent.

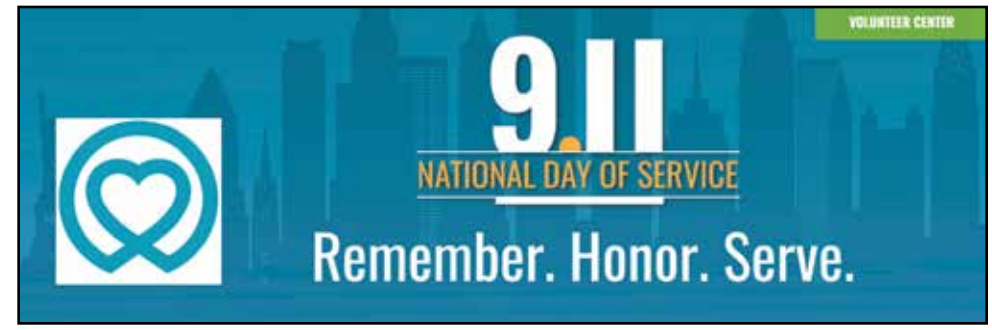
STEP 8: Add vanilla and allow mixture to cool.

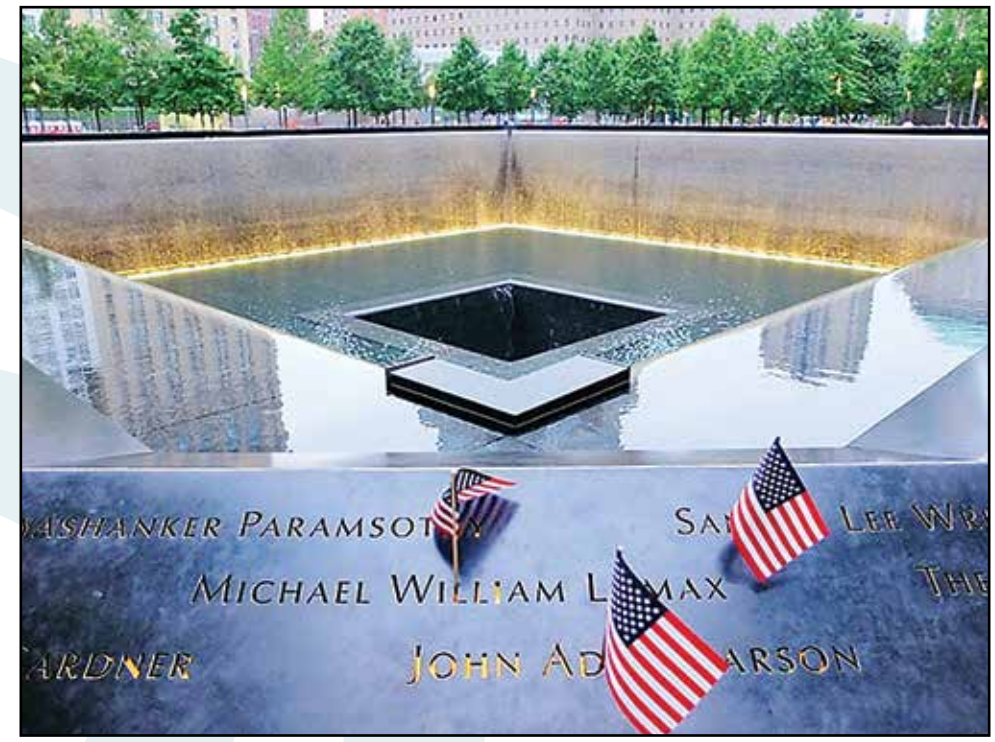
STEP 9: Combine remaining cherries and puree and use to fill pie crusts or puff pastry.

STEP 10: Cook pie or pastry as directed.

Never Forget!

September 11 National Day of Service & Remembrance





911 Memorial in New York.

Photo courtesy of NewYork.co.uk

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country, we all promised to "Never Forget!" We committed to "do better" forsaking the things that didn't matter and embracing the things that mattered the most. At that time, we were united. We were one country, one people, with one purpose. While the jury judging our success in remaining united is still out, we the people seem to be doing well to remember, and never forgetting the events of that horrible day.

To help us to actively remember by encouraging the giving of service, the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance or 9/11 Day was created as a federally-recognized National Day of Service that happens on the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It became federally recognized and authorized as a Day of Service with the passage of the 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Later that year, President Barack Obama amended the Patriot Day Presidential Proclamation, first established by President George W. Bush, officially designating September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Surveys conducted by MyGoodDeed claim that approximately 35 million Americans observe 9/11 Day by engaging in some form of charitable service, making 9/11 Day the largest annual day of charitable service in the United States! (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_National_Day_of_Service)

General Authority Seventy Paul B. Pieper recognized that the Church's JustServe.org program is perfectly suited to support this endeavor. Under his direction he has rallied Area Authority Seventies and Stake Presidents in Arizona to "make more of this thing!" Spearheading JustServe's role is Arizona JustServe Director Ruth Pagan (puh-GON). She and her team have worked with Arizona and National agencies and non-profit organizations to develop service project opportunities available only on September 11th.

"Our hope is to really engage our community and help them to know about 9/11 Remembrance Day. It's a growing thing that not everyone is aware of!" explains Pagan. "We also hope that this event will help people discover the value of the JustServe.org program and the organizations it serves."

For this event, the JustServe team has created a collection of service opportunities in a "volunteer center" on the website (http://justserve.org/az911day) that features projects individual, families and groups can do on and around 9/11 Remembrance Day. Working at a food bank or soup kitchen, participating in a community blood drive, school and local park clean ups are some of the types of projects listed on this page. Stake JustServe representatives are actively encouraging wards in their stakes to participate.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to join with other faith groups and friends and neighbors in our communities as we participate in the '9/11 National Day of Service,'" said Elder John Lewis, Area Seventy for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "This special Day of Service is a unique way to build strong community relationships that will provide both short and long-term benefits, while honoring and remembering those who lost their lives and were impacted by 9/11."

Recognizing that the unity we experienced post-9/11 attack has faded, Pagan expressed a hope that this day and JustServe's work to provide people with opportunities to serve "will foster a sense of unity in our communities, renewing the unity we all felt right after 9/11." She continues, "We are all Americans. We need to see what we have in common rather than what divides us. I wonder, would people help me if I were in trouble, no matter my beliefs, and I feel that yes, they would!" Service always unifies.

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Discover the 1950 US Census

Family History

By Glen K. Tolman

The United States Constitution, Article I Section 2, directed in 1790 that a population count be taken every 10 years. The details from most of these census counts have been made public and are a great help for those who are interested in researching their families. The census bureau makes the actual images of the census available 72 years after the census was taken.

The 1940 US Census has been available for 10 years now and has been helpful to millions of people in learning about their families. Many people participated in indexing this census (making information searchable) 10 years ago, reviewing one page at a time, with two persons extracting details from each page and a third person resolving any differences. As a result, the information on the census became available to search by name, and linked to the actual image of the page upon which the ancestor's name and family members were found.

The 1950 census is now available to view on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. The 1950 census page on FamilySearch.org states "Indexed by computers, reviewed by people". The images of this census were made public in April 2022. Using new, proprietary Artificial Intelligence (AI) handwriting recognition technology, Ancestry.com and FamilySearch worked together to make the census details searchable by name. First Ancestry processed all the images using the AI technology providing a computer-generated index. Ancestry and FamilySearch volunteers then partnered to evaluate the handwriting recognition extraction and to ensure a complete and accurate index.

Personal Photo of Glen Tolman

Photo of my parents and siblings taken less than a year after the 1950 Census.

Ensuring the complete and accurate index was accomplished using the "Get Involved" option on Familysearch.org and the "Get Involved" mobile app. The first phase consisted of verifying names and the second was verifying family details. The name verification was done first and completed before the end of July. Many, including young people, were involved in this effort as it could be done on the mobile app. When all names were verified for a state, the family verification was started. The family verification was more complicated so needed to be completed on familysearch.org. When the family verification was finished the complete and accurate index became available on both Ancestry and FamilySearch.

View a page from the 1950 census that shows me at age 3 listed with my family (parents and three siblings). Search for the census using my name Glen Tolman, birth year 1947, and birth state Utah. My younger sister was born in May

Continued on pg. 25

Self-Reliance Resources For Life!

Get to Know Church Employment Services

By Nancy Rasmussen

The Church Employment Services Self-Reliance program provides resources to help individuals plan for life-long career success by offering counseling and workshops to increase employment opportunities.

For those looking for a job, needing to learn new skills, secure education or are looking for career direction, the volunteers at Church Employment Services are available virtually and in person to help candidates become gainfully employed through training, education and local business networking.

Located in Mesa and Glendale, and staffed by experienced, trained service missionaries, these centers offer one-on-one interviewing skills and resume writing coaching, along with access to numerous valuable support groups. The purpose of the centers is to teach and train, not to find jobs for candidates. However, missionaries will train candidates and provide computer access to various job search applications.

Glendale Employment Services Resource Center Coordinator Elder Rick Ball testifies of the value and rewards of Church Employment Services. "My Church Service Missionary assignment to Employment Services has been an exceptionally rewarding experience. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve many of the Lord's children in their efforts to achieve self-reliance through finding jobs best suited to their individual education, skill set and experience. I have derived great joy and satisfaction from teaching job search skills to job candidates and sharing in the successes they have experienced using the talents with which the Lord endowed them."

Southwest Regional Employment Manager Sandy Holmes recalls one of many Employment Services success stories. "One individual helped through the program was Joseph Wilson. Wilson is an engineer who, after graduating from Arizona State University in the aerospace master's program, could not find a job. By utilizing the online Active Job Search group in his area and getting one-on-one coaching assistance from Elder Rick Ball at the Glendale employment center, Joseph was able to land his dream job as a rocket scientist," Holmes said.

Wilson said, "I did have skills in rocket science, but what I lacked was the ability to convey my skills efficiently to others. I had several interviews with prominent companies with no success.

I didn't want to admit that I needed help, and when someone suggested I try the Church Employment Services website, I reluctantly agreed. When I got a call from one of the program's missionaries, little did I know that I would change my life."

Mesa Employment Services Missionary Sister Lynn Nicastro has a passion to make candidate resumes sparkle and interviews come alive.

"Candidates tell me their resumes make them look amazing. I remind them, they are amazing and have much to offer employers. I guide them through the interview process, so they are confident, and employers know the immense value they bring to their companies," Nicastro said.

Nicastro added, "Employment Missionaries partner with Christ to help people see their divine nature. Additionally, the Church has incredible resources and online classes that boost employment results."

Employment Service Missionaries also offer virtual coaching services.

Photo courtesy of Mesa Employment Resource Center

A friendly exterior welcomes you to the Mesa Employment Resource Center.

Meet virtually with someone who can walk through the job search process and help find the right job fit. One-on-one virtual coaching can provide feedback on résumés and ideas on how to effectively use them, prepare candidates for interviews, and teach where to find job leads.

Discover the abundant resources offered by Church Employment Services by visiting https://www.latterdaysaintjobs.org/

Family History - 1950 Census
Continued from pg. 24

1950 so just missed being listed on the 1950 census. She will have to wait 10 more years to see herself on the 1960 census. The census page lists State, County and City on the header and then street and address for the household and then details for each person in the home including their name, family relationship, race, sex, age, marital status, birth location (state or country), and work information for those 14 years of age or older. Learn more about the 1950 US Census at this link familysearch.org/1950census/

Living Scriptures Streaming Service Review

By Allison Beckert

For all the streaming options available, one with a focus on the Church and its unique catalogue of content, movies, series, and group study is a welcomed addition. The Living Scriptures streaming service is made to fill just that slot, created for individuals and families who are looking for wholesome content, gospel resources, and new and nostalgic content from Church connected creators.

For example, the animated Old Testament story videos used for Family Home Evenings are found here, as well as videos that accompanied the Book of Mormon and New Testament manuals I read and watched as a child myself. I was pleased to find these all on the streaming service. This series is called Line Upon Line, but I was pleased to find other options for children's scripture videos under the Latter-Day Kids, Animated Scriptures, Scripture Explorers, and others.

The kids' scripture programming is good, and so is the roster of adult study material. Living Scriptures streams some of the highest quality consumer commentary from the Come Follow Me creators across platforms. You might recognize videos from Don't Miss This, Come Follow Me Insights, The Bible Project, Unshaken, and others. I was personally happy to see the BYU series Discussions on the Old Testament streaming along with all this other great stuff.

Stream audio, movies, and series for children and adults. Photo by Livingscriptures.com

The Fighting Preacher
Watch on your TV
And everywhere else! Watch on Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, iOS, Android, Chromecast, in your browser, and more.

Living Scriptures can stream on all your devices. Photo by Livingscriptures.com

This isn't only a streaming service with scripture content. My giddy auntie heart leapt to find Living Scriptures also carries some classic wholesome cartoons like Babar, Busytown, Horseland, and Liberty's Kids. I'm looking forward to sharing with the little nieces and nephews programming that I loved as a kid.

The movie selection is one that revived some powerful memories. Some Christian and Church production classics of the last couple of decades of have made it into the lineup. I remember watching videos like Easter Dream on Sundays with my family and having a well-loved VHS tape of The Buttercream Gang that got nearly worn all the way out with use.

This is one of the smaller streaming services out there and has room to grow. The app functions and does successfully cast and play smoothly on mobile devices. Streaming also runs well on laptop or desktop computers. However, loading times can be a challenge, and changing selections isn't always smooth. For those needing accessibility, know the close caption services are dependent on the original production. Some shows and movies will have those options, and some won't.

There is a ton of potential here and I hope to see the service reach more families looking for familiar as well as new content in a gospel context to enjoy with their families. There is some original content, including the Line Upon Line but also a weekly church news highlight series that has some promise.

To begin streaming with Living Scriptures, visit their website (https://www.livingscriptures.com/) and enroll to take advantage of their free trial period to see if this service is one that will benefit your family. Monthly and annual rates are available.

Credibility

Jewish Scholar Shares Newly Discovered Evidence Supporting the Authenticity of the Bible

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Mr. Aaron Lipkin speaks to a large audience at the Mesa Temple Visitors Center.

By Robin Finlinson

The Mesa Temple Visitors Center event room was packed recently with people who came to listen to a particularly special guest: Aaron Lipkin. A Jewish archeology and Bible scholar from Jerusalem, Lipkin spoke of a 3,300-year-old Hebrew text he was involved in discovering in 2021 on Israel's Mt. Ebal. The text, explains Lipkin, consists of several verses of Biblical Hebrew inscribed inside a lead amulet which corresponds to and

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Sister and Elder Broc Hiatt hold shards of ancient clay pottery found at Joshua's altar.

supports the Biblical narrative of the return of the Israelites to the Land of Israel following the Exodus from Egypt.

Lipkin's presentation adds credibility to the claim that the 1981 discovery of a sprawling stone structure by archeologist Adam Zertal is in fact the remains of the altar built by Old Testament prophet Joshua.

Lipkin said that the altar has been ignored and discredited by the academic world because many scholars teach that the exodus of the Israelites and their miraculous stories are simply myths. More proof was needed, though the countless stones were clearly placed intentionally, and things such as bones of young sacrificial animals, earrings and scarabs of ancient Egyptian style, and plaster were found there. Additional excavation, however, was not allowed for many years.

With recent findings, Lipkin says the site is now a "big Biblical party." The most significant evidence, found by wet sifting, is a tiny amulet or tablet of rectangular folded layers of lead, about an inch long. Inside is the "oldest known surviving Hebrew text" telling in chiastic parallelism of cursing by YHW (the divine name of the Lord). "Cursed, cursed, cursed - cursed by the God YHW…"

Such text might seem strange and uninteresting unless one realizes:

The children of Israel were instructed by Moses that when they reached the promised land (with Joshua then leading them), they were to build an altar of stones and plaster on Mt. Ebal and to write the law upon the stones (Deut. 27). They were known to write by engraving on metals such as lead, and the writing of the law would have included the punishment for not keeping their covenant to uphold the law—God's commandments. They had also been directed to read aloud to all the people "the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal." Joshua fulfilled all the instructions (Deut. 11:29; Josua 8:30-35).

The message of that mountain ceremony, Lipkin said, was the main message of both Judaism and Christianity: everyone has the freedom to choose between being blessed or cursed, and God is waiting for all who choose to turn to Him and be blessed. Gerizim and Ebal stand as a reminder of that choice.

Lipkin delights in sharing discoveries with other faithful Jews and Christians. His tour company shows guests parts of Israel not usually explored, including Joshua's altar. Find "Aaron Lipkin" on YouTube and Facebook. Visit www.lipkintours.com.

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Like Dragons Did They Fight
Continued from pg. 19

don't really want to study them because it sounds like your religion, not mine."

The reason we use principles that are provided by the prophets of the LDS Church is because they are the most scientifically accurate principles, and they just happened to come from the LDS Church.

You mentioned that COVID really changed the way that your business is done — could you share a little bit about how you adapted?

Several years ago, one of the clinicians suggested the idea of trying to run an online group for people that were farther away and who couldn't drive far enough to meet with us. So, they started experimenting with it. While I was still doing in-person groups, they started doing online groups. The most bizarre thing was the success rate was the same.

With the youth specifically — they are more familiar with on-screen relationships than the previous generation. So, it's fine for them; they're not bothered by it at all. It's actually more structured, there's less crosstalk, there's less chit-chat. Because people all over the country can come in, they can select a group that fits their circumstances.

What else would you'd like to share?

I never lose my motivation to do this work because these are smart men, these are capable men. But they just can't figure out this one thing, and they don't understand why, when it's treated as if it's just a simple self-mastery issue.

My responsibility is to study it, and I can bring it back and say, "This is the techniques he's going to use. Let's get you trained and ready for it."

When I get to watch the fruits of that, when I get to watch men who had their heads held low, and now I'm giving them techniques, methods, responses, and they feel like soldiers, they feel like warriors. We understand you can't win without a connection to God because of the size of the enemy. That's why I do what I do.

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JUSTSERVE

Kids for Kindness

Offering Opportunities To Do Good To Kids And Parents Alike

By Hillary Fevrier

Jesus taught us to love one another as He loves us. One of the most rewarding ways to follow that counsel is to volunteer at a nonprofit or other charitable organization. Yet oftentimes, parents are frustrated in their plans to teach service and generosity to their children as many organized service opportunities are limited strictly to adults.

For parents who have tried to teach their children to find joy in volunteering and serving only to be disappointed, Kids for Kindness is the solution. Founded in 2019, Kids for Kindness matches families with opportunities to do good in the Phoenix Valley. Since its inception, Kids for Kindness has hosted hundreds of service events for children (and adults). All projects and events are age-appropriate, simple to understand, and fun!

Kids for Kindness creator Camilla Porter says, "Whether it's activity packets for patients at Phoenix Children's Hospital, school supply kits for children who are struggling with homelessness, thank you bags for police officers and firefighters, friendship bracelet kits for children housed at immigration detention centers, handsewn teddy bears for children living in war-torn areas of the Middle East, or holiday placemats for the seniors who receive Meals on Wheels, the projects are created with an eye toward allowing even the youngest participant an opportunity to show kindness in a meaningful way."

The fruits of Kids for Kindness are innumerable. In February of this year, Kids for Kindness hosted an art-ivism activity in which the participants were able to choose a cause that was meaningful to them and create a piece of art to support that cause. For each piece of art created, the Bezos Family Foundation made a five-dollar donation to chosen causes. In the end, Kids for Kindness raised almost $500 in just one hour! Kids for Kindness is unique in its ability to not only get children involved in service, but make them the stars of the show.

The Kids for Kindness team is always looking for more support! The organization is 100% volunteer-run, most of the hours coming from Porter's own family. Though sometimes, payment by Skittles is required. Porter says, "My ultimate goal is to teach children in my community about kindness by giving them a first-hand opportunity to help those less fortunate. That's why I created Kids for Kindness—my bare bones, low budget, no frills attempt to plant seeds of compassion in my children and others in our community."

There are so many ways to get involved with Kids for Kindness, and as Latter-day Saints who value family so highly, the beauty is that families are encouraged to serve together! Dallin H. Oaks said, "The ultimate treasures on earth and in heaven are our children." Kids for Kindness embodies that sentiment as it brings families together in following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Those interested in getting involved in this amazing organization can visit http://www.kidsforkindnessaz.org/ and click on the "Join us!" Link. Or visit Kids for Kindness on Facebook.

Photo courtesy of Camilla Porter

People of all ages serve with Kids for Kindness.

Photo courtesy of Camilla Porter

The Porter Family serves the community together.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Temples are Returning to Normal Operations.

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple's information at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples
- Appointments are required for members to receive their own ordinances (endowment and sealing). Call or email the temple to schedule this type of appointment.
- Masks may be required depending on local government restrictions.
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Family name cards may be printed at the temple and cards may be returned upon request. You will receive a FamilySearch notification to confirm that the ordinance was recorded.
- All government guidelines will be observed.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

Gilbert Arizona Temple

3301 S. Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ, 85297

(1) 480-822-5000

Services: Clothing rental available. No Cafeteria

2022 Temple Closures

Saturday, 1 Oct 2022
Monday, 3 Oct 2022 - Monday, 17 Oct 2022
Wednesday, 23 Nov 2022 - Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Saturday, 24 Dec 2022
Saturday, 31 Dec 2022

Mesa Arizona Temple

101 S. LeSueur, Mesa, AZ, 852014

(1) 480-833-1211

Services: Clothing rental available. No Cafeteria

2022 Temple Closures

Saturday, 1 Oct 2022
Wednesday, 23 Nov 2022 (Limited Operations)
Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Saturday, 24 Dec 2022

Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310

(1) 623-474-9500

Services: No clothing or cafeteria

2022 Temple Closures

Saturday, 1 Oct 2022
Monday, 31 Oct 2022 - Monday, 14 Nov 2022
Wednesday, 23 Nov 2022 (Limited Operations)
Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Saturday, 24 Dec 2022
Saturday, 31 Dec 2022 (Limited Operations)

Distribution Centers

Mesa 445 E Main Street (480) 969-2170
Gilbert 2894 S San Tan Village Pkwy (480) 926-3234
Phoenix 2919 W Agua Fria Fwy (480) 660-6100